

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A method of monitoring a vehicle trailer uncoupling, comprising:

a) defining a planned trailer uncoupling area;

b) determining that the trailer has been uncoupled outside said planned uncoupling area;

and

c) determining a location of the vehicle with a global positioning system.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising taking a picture of the driver when it is determined that the trailer has been uncoupled outside the planned uncoupling area.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising periodically transmitting a location of at least one of a tractor and the trailer only when it is determined that one of said tractor and said trailer has moved.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising activating a trailer battery backup.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically locking doors of said trailer.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically locking a fifth wheel of said vehicle.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically applying spring brakes of said trailer.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically deflating a tire of said vehicle.

9. A method of monitoring a vehicle trailer uncoupling, comprising:
a) defining a planned trailer uncoupling area;
b) determining that the trailer has been uncoupled outside said planned uncoupling area;
and
c) automatically securing said trailer.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said automatically securing said trailer comprises automatically applying spring brakes of the trailer.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said automatically securing said trailer comprises automatically locking doors of the trailer.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein said automatic securing comprises deflating a tire of said trailer.

13. An apparatus for monitoring a vehicle trailer uncoupling, comprising:
a) a vehicle computer programmed to define a planned trailer uncoupling area; and
b) a global positioning system coupled to said computer for determining a location of the trailer, said computer being programmed to determine that the trailer has been uncoupled outside said planned uncoupling area.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising a camera coupled to said computer for taking a picture of the driver when it is determined that the trailer has been uncoupled outside said planned uncoupling area.

15. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising a trailer battery backup controlled by said computer for powering electronics on said trailer, said computer being programmed to activate said battery backup when said trailer has been uncoupled outside said planned uncoupling area.

14 16. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising door locks controlled by said computer on said trailer, said computer being programmed to activate said door locks when said trailer has been uncoupled outside said planned uncoupling area.

17. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising a fifth wheel on said vehicle having a lock controlled by said computer, said computer being programmed to activate said lock on said fifth wheel when said trailer has been uncoupled outside said planned uncoupling area.

15 18. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising spring brakes controlled by said computer on said trailer, said computer being programmed to activate said spring brakes when said trailer has been uncoupled outside said planned uncoupling area..

19. The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising transmitting said picture to a central control.

20. An apparatus for monitoring a vehicle trailer uncoupling, comprising:
a) a vehicle computer programmed to define a planned trailer uncoupling area; and
b) a global positioning system coupled to said computer for determining a location of the trailer, said computer being programmed to determine that the trailer has been uncoupled outside said planned uncoupling area and programmed to automatically securing said trailer when said trailer has been uncoupled outside said planned uncoupling area.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein said automatically securing said trailer comprises automatically applying spring brakes of the trailer.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein said automatically securing said trailer comprises automatically locking doors of the trailer.

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